

Message Text

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11

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /129 W

----- 011713

R 060917Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6683

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EEWT, SN, MY, ID

SUBJECT: LOS: STRAITS OF MALACCA - TRI-PARTITE MEETINGS

REF: A. SINGAPORE 5328; B. KUALA LUMPUR 6825; C. STATE 286159

1. IN MEETING WITH DCM DECEMBER 6 DEPUTY SECRETARY OF MFA, TAN BOON SENG, SAID THAT THE TRI-PARTITE MEETING ON THE MALACCA STRAIT TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER 20. HE CONFIRMED THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JAKARTA.

2. TAN SAID GOS POSITION ON UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE STILL FAVORED THREE METERS. HOWEVER, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOS MIGHT BE PREPARED TO MOVE TO A COMPROMISE POSITION OF 3.25 OR EVEN 3.5 METERS IF THE OTHER TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE
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SUFFICIENTLY ACCOMMODATING ON "OTHER QUESTIONS" AS

WELL AS THE MAJOR ISSUE OF WHETHER THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO IMCO FOR APPROVAL. HE NOTED THAT GOS CONTINUED TO TAKE POSITION THAT ANY TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME DEVELOPED BY THE THREE STATES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO IMCO FOR APPROVAL, BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THE GOI AND GOM HELD OPPOSING VIEWS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE GOI WOULD BE THE MOST INTRANSIGENT ON THIS SUBJECT EVEN THOUGH THE GOM HAD RECENTLY COMMENTED ON THE ISSUE IN THE MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENT IN RATHER STRONG TERMS. WHEN DCM ASKED WHETHER HE SAW ANY WAY OF RESOLVING THIS IMPASSE, TAN REPLIED THAT IN THEIR PREVIOUS MEETINGS THE THREE GOVERNMENTS HAD NEVER REALLY COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS ISSUE, ALWAYS DEFERRING IT UNTIL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON OTHER MATTERS. HE SAID THAT IF THIS ISSUE PROVED TO BE THE SOLE STUMBLING BLOCK TO AGREEMENT, THE GOS WOULD PROBABLY FEEL COMPELLED TO EXPLORE VARIOUS VERBAL FORMULAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE WOULD BE POSSIBLE.
HOLDRIDGE

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